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Arab States - Israel: The meeting in Cairo of Nasir, King Husayn, and Boumediene broke up yesterday without any evident agreement on Arab policies toward Israel.

The absence of a formal communiqué following the meeting suggests that the three leaders were unable to reach an accord. Husayn is unlikely to have made any significant progress in persuading Nasir to take the lead in moving toward a settlement with the Israelis. The presence of Boumediene, a strong advocate of continuing Arab hostility toward Israel, probably encouraged Nasir to reject any moderate suggestions the King made.

Boumediene went on to Damascus for talks with Syrian leaders, and Iraqi President Arif arrived in Cairo for a bilateral meeting with Nasir. The convocation of a full-fledged Arab summit meeting planned for 15 July in Khartoum now seems doubtful.

Husayn, who has been trying to promote an Arab summit meeting ever since the war ended, flew to Cairo on short notice Monday in an effort to take advantage of the scheduled meeting there of radical Arab leaders, including Syrian President Atassi and Arif. This appears, however, to have dissuaded Atassi from going to Cairo. Arif's delayed arrival probably was caused by the Iraqi cabinet change-over on 10 July.

The Israelis claim that an air engagement near the Suez Canal yesterday resulted in the destruction of one Egyptian SU-7 jet fighter. [redacted]

United Nations: The General Assembly reconvening today is unlikely to come up with a compromise substantive resolution on the Middle East.

Although most delegates would like the Assembly to end on a positive note, many believe that the gap between the unsuccessful Yugoslav and Latin American resolutions of last week cannot be bridged. The Spanish delegate has been circulating a proposal calling for immediate Israeli withdrawal, asking all parties to refrain from the use of force, and requesting the appointment of a special representative of the secretary general. Despite a vigorous campaign by the Spanish delegation, the Latin Americans and a number of other members remain opposed to the proposal, and it may not be introduced.

Since the Assembly recessed a week ago, the Soviets appear to have retained faint hopes that a compromise resolution more favorable to them is possible, and they have encouraged various efforts along these lines. Over the weekend, Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin queried Ambassador Goldberg on the chances for a compromise resolution based on Israeli withdrawal and referral of other Middle East issues to the Security Council.

Dobrynin acknowledged, however, that the US and USSR were still far apart on substantive principles. He seemed interested in a procedural resolution authorizing appointment of a special representative to the area and referring the record of the Assembly's proceedings to the Security Council. In discussing possible candidates for a special representative, Dobrynin mentioned that he had high regard for Gunnar Jarring, the Swedish ambassador in Moscow.

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USSR: The Soviet hierarchy has dealt a further blow to the career of Aleksander Shelepin, once considered a leading candidate for future party leadership.

The appointment of Shelepin as the chief of the Soviet trade union organization, announced yesterday, all but completes his political neutralization, a process which has been under way for many months. During this period a number of his political allies, including the former KGB chief, have been transferred to relatively powerless positions.

Shelepin's new duties will preoccupy him with everyday labor problems and reduce his influence on the formulation of national policy. Although he will probably remain for a time on the party Politburo, he will almost certainly lose his position in the Secretariat, the executive organization of the party.

There is no evidence that Shelepin's demotion stems directly from differences over Middle East policy, as was the case with the recently fired Moscow party chief. Nevertheless, Shelepin and his political allies have been identified with the militant wing of the Soviet party, and the men replacing those who have been ousted appear generally more moderate in their outlook. The policy orientation of the Politburo will probably not be immediately affected by this development.

Communist China - Hong Kong: Communists in Hong Kong stepped up hit-and-run terrorist attacks in the fourth consecutive day of rioting.

A union leader has stated that students and workers have been instructed to use guerrilla tactics and that if the government's reaction to the incidents is weak there will be a "big showdown." A top local Communist Party leader, however, has expressed apprehension that the prolonged violence might prompt a crackdown on the unions which the Communists could not withstand.

Communist leaders, convinced that they must paralyze the Hong Kong economy to force British authorities to submit, have made the colony's transport services their prime objective. After a series of terrorist attacks on public transit, the British instituted a curfew for much of Hong Kong island. The Communists are now considering efforts to halt harbor services.

The disturbances have already hurt some businesses, and key government and banking officials have privately expressed pessimism over the climate for new investment.

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NOTES

Congo (Kinshasa): There has been no major change in the military situation in Kisangani (formerly Stanleyville), where the rebellious mercenaries still occupy the airport. In Bukavu, the US consul has confirmed earlier reports that Congolese troops have engaged in widespread violence and looting and that they are still out of control. Conditions are generally calm elsewhere in the country, although many European technicians in Katanga apparently remain determined to leave.

Brazil-France: The Brazilian air minister reportedly signed a letter of intent on 8 July to purchase 20 French Mirage tactical jet fighters at an attractive price. Brazil has no modern jet fighter aircraft and has repeatedly tried to buy supersonic F-5s. The government would no doubt prefer to buy US-made aircraft, but Brazil's military chiefs are impatient for sophisticated equipment.

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